**Socratic Seminar Discussion Questions – *The Crucible***

1. Does reverend Hale help or hurt the Salem witch trials?
2. Is John Proctor selfish or selfless?
3. Is John Proctor a hero or did he get what he deserved?
4. Is Abigail a selfish liar or is she a victim of an oppressive society?
5. Does this play promote the idea that it’s okay to lie and cheat as long as you can get away with it?
6. Does going to church help the people of Salem become better citizens?
7. Is justice best determined in a court of law?
8. Can a work of art such as a play/film change anything?
9. Define crucible. Find other words that are similar to crucible and decide why you think it is in the title of the play.
10. What role does religion play in *The Crucible*? Is it a positive or negative force? Think of specific examples to support your point.
11. How can we relate the events in *The Crucible* to modern day? Think about the five types of motivation, your journal entries, etc.
12. In any unfaithful marriage or relationship, who is to blame – the adulterous party (John), the counterpart or tempter (Abigail), or the distant spouse (Elizabeth)? Can someone be justified or pushed to cheat on their partner?
13. Would you denounce your faith or beliefs to save your life? Why or why not?
14. People often blindly conform to organized religion, political groups, gangs, and factions. Why are so many people willing to do this?
15. Despite the lessons learned from the Salem Witch Trials, we have seen the damage of mass hysteria repeated. Why do societies throughout history continue to react irrationally in times if fear or panic?